

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and a clerical error of the specification has been amended.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claim 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nicholson. In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Diez et al. In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 7-10 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diez et al.

In view of the rejections, claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1 together with other limitations, and claim 7 has been cancelled. Also, new claims 14-18 have been filed.

In claim 1, a metal gasket comprises first and second metal base plates laminated together and having first and second main beads. The first metal base plate has a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and a first inner sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided inside the first main bead.

The second metal base plate has a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead, and a second inner sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided inside the second main bead.

The second outer sub-bead section abuts at least partly against the first outer sub-bead section in a radial direction of the hole for sealing, and the second inner sub-bead section abuts at least partly against the first inner sub-bead section in the radial direction for sealing.

In Nicholson, beads formed on the upper and lower metal plates are simply laminated together. There are no main beads and sub-beads smaller than the main beads in the respective upper and lower metal plates. Nicholson does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1.

In Diez et al., an embodiment as shown in Fig. 15 includes intermediate layers 110, 112 having beads 110a, 112a, and stoppers 114, 116 in the form of corrugations or projections at inner side of the beads 110a, 112a. Since the embodiment as shown in Fig. 8 has stoppers 46', 48' spaced apart from each other, the embodiment of Fig. 15 may have stoppers at outer side of the bead 11a, 112a, as stated in the Action. However, even if the outer and inner stoppers are formed on both sides of the beads 11a, 112a, such a structure does not constitute the invention.

Namely, in claim 1 of the invention, the second outer sub-bead section abuts at least partly against the first outer sub-bead section in a radial direction of the hole for sealing, and the second inner sub-bead section abuts at least partly against the first inner sub-bead section in the radial direction for sealing. In Diez et al., the stoppers are simply vertically laminated together, and the structure of claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested.

Therefore, Diez et al. does not disclose or even suggest the features of claim 1.

In claim 16, a metal gasket comprises a first metal base plate having a first main bead around the hole, and a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and including a second main bead formed around the hole to project in a direction opposite to the first main bead and having a size less than that of the first bead, and a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead. The second outer sub-bead section is located at least partly outside the first outer sub-bead section and abuts against thereto in a radial direction of the hole for restricting lateral movement of the first outer sub-bead section.

In Nicholson, beads formed on the upper and lower metal plates are simply laminated together. There are no main beads and sub-beads smaller than the main beads in the respective upper and lower metal plates. Nicholson does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 16.

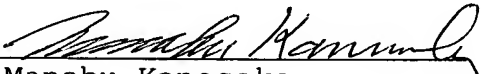
In the embodiment of Fig. 15 of Diez et al., the stoppers 114, 116 are simply laminated together. In claim 16, the second main bead has a size less than that of the first bead. Also, the second outer sub-bead section is located at least partly outside the first outer sub-bead section and abuts against thereto in a radial direction of the hole for restricting lateral movement of the first outer sub-bead section. These structures are not disclosed or suggested in Diez et al.

As explained above, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Even if the cited references are combined, claims are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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